Environment Facility (GEF) and also under bilateral cooperation. India has received an indicative allocation of US$ 74.9 millions to fund climate change projects (2006-2010) in the country through GEF, which is the multilateral financial mechanism.

(d) and (e) Government of India has already set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India on impacts of Climate Change to identify the impacts of anthropogenic Climate Change on India and to identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic Climate Change impacts. The composition of the Expert Committee includes eminent scientists and representatives of various Ministries and Departments concerned.

Scheme for the protection of environment

†1838. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fomulated any action plan for the protection of the environment in coordination with his Ministry and Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government is conscious of the need for protection of environment and has formulated National Environment Policy during May, 2006. The Policy aims at implementing regulatory reforms, programmes and projects for environmental conservation, review & enactment of legislation, by the agencies of Central, State & Local Governments. The Policy also seeks to encourage partnerships of different stakeholders. The principal objectives of the Policy are conservation of critical environmental resources; intra-generational equity: livelihood security for the poor; inter-generational equity; integration of environmental concerns in economic and social development; efficiency in environmental resource use; environmental governance; and enhancement of resources for environmental conservation.

Land for the Pamba Project

1839. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether land for the Pamba Project has been made available;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present hurdles in the implementation of the project;

(d) whether Government has taken any step to remove these hurdles;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received one proposal for construction of road (0.857 ha) in Pamba valley and one proposal for irrigation (1.4435 ha) on Pamba and Kakki Rivers in the year 2002 and 2004 respectively and both were accorded approval by the Ministry.

Increasing deaths of elephants and himalayan brown bears

1840. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is aware of the big rise in the number of elephant deaths in different parts of the country due to poaching, accidents, etc;

(b) whether Government has any plans to stop further decline in forest cover especially in the Eastern States so that hungry elephants do not stray into populated areas;

(c) whether Government has any plans to realign railway lines running through reserve forests and national parks to prevent elephants and other wildlife being killed by speeding trains; and

(d) the steps Government plan to take to preserve the declining of population of Himalayan brown bears that are being regularly beaten to death in parts of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per information available with the Central Government, about 60 elephants have been reportedly killed in accidents which includes train accidents and electrocution and in poaching in the year 2006-07.

(b) Ministry is implementing National Afforestation Programme for regenerating degraded forests and adjoining areas all over the country including in the Eastern States. The National Afforestation Programme has provision for bamboo plantation also which is the preferred habitat for elephants.

(c) No, Sir. However, safeguard measures have been implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways to prevent death of elephants and other wildlife in train accidents which includes introduction of speed limits in vulnerable sections.

(d) As per reports of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, no instance of killing of Himalayan Brown Bear has taken place. However, there has been some incidents of killing of Asiatic Black Bears in retaliation when the bears came to human habitation and attacked the people. The State Government has taken several measures to protect the Asiatic Black Bears which includes:—

(i) Constitution of Coordination Committee consisting of Revenue, Police, Forests and Forest Protection Force;

(ii) Assigning research study to Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) on man-animal conflict in Jammu and Kashmir;

(iii) Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has taken up research study in Jammu and Kashmir to study and behaviour and ecology of black bears.

(iv) Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Wildlife SOS, a voluntary organization for carrying out census, survey, rescue and rehabilitation of black bears.

(v) Publicity and awareness programmes etc.

License scheme for hunting animals

1841. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Madhya Pradesh may allow hunting of blackbucks, wildboars;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh is finalizing the license scheme for hunting animals such as Cheetals, Blackbucks and wildboars; and

(d) if so, the actions Government proposes to take under the Wildlife Act to prevent such a move of the Madhya Pradesh Government?